

REMARKS

Claims 10, 37-40, 49, and 65-74 have been canceled. Claims 1, 27, and 41 have been amended. New claims 75-80 have been added. After entry of the present amendments, claims 1-9, 11-36, 41-48, 50-64, and 75-80 remain in this application. Applicants attempted to cancel claim 35, but entry thereof was refused (see Advisory Actions dated February 7, 2006, and March 17, 2006). Accordingly, claim 35 still remains in this application for examination.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 41 as amended, which call for encrypting the transmitted information or means for encrypting the transmitted information, neither Raven nor Sizer disclose encrypting the information transmitted between the portable data unit and the gaming machine. Applicants have consistently traversed the Examiner's erroneous assertion that the conversion of data into binary, decimal, hexadecimal, and ASCII formats would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to be encryption. Applicants respectfully repeat their strong disagreement with this assertion.

Regarding independent claim 27, it has been amended to call for, *inter alia*, providing a central host computer remote from and coupled to a plurality of gaming machines including the gaming machine, the portable data unit storing a personal identifier associated with a player of the gaming machine, transmitting the personal identifier between the portable data unit and the gaming machine, and responsive to the transmitting, accessing from the central host computer information selected from the group consisting of player preferences for establishing a player's preferred gaming machine configuration, game play data, casino preferences, and gaming machine data. Neither Sizer nor Raven disclose such a method, and in particular, neither Sizer nor Raven disclose accessing from a central host computer player preferences for establishing a player's preferred gaming machine configuration, game play data, casino preferences, or gaming machine data. New claim 80 is believed to be patentable over Sizer and Raven for at least the same reasons.

The amended claims are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record, and favorable action is requested.

If any matters can be clarified by an interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

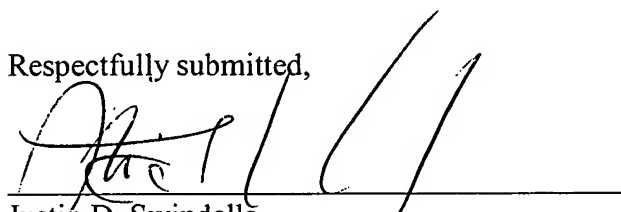
III. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Enclosed herewith is a Request for Continued Examination and a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time and the associated fees therefor. It is believed that no additional fees are presently due; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C. Deposit Account No. 10-0447, Order No. 47079-00107USD1.

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Respectfully submitted,



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